Committee of Secretaries. The Committee has finalised the proposal for a revised Voluntary Retirement Scheme for surplus employees which include payment of certain ex-gratia amount, in addition to normal pensionary benefits, to such surplus employees who opt for voluntary retirement. Further action, in this, has been initiated.

Pay scale of government employees in personal staff of ministers

2707. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from some Members of Parliament requesting for granting the option to the Government employees appointed in the personal staff of Ministers equivalent for the pay scale of the post against which they work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when the benefit of the pay scales of the posts of personal staff would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Personnel and Training received proposals from Members of Parliament for grant of option to the Central Government officers holding posts at lower levels in the Central Government and appointed to higher posts on deputation as personal staff of Ministers, to opt for the pay scale of the higher post. When the representations were received, Government took a conscious decision not to allow higher scales of pay of the post held on deputation in order to avoid unnecessary administrative problems. If such benefit is allowed, it might be possible that a person holding a lower ministerial post may become entitled to scale of a higher post to which he is otherwise not cleared for appointment. Accordingly, the need to change the existing provisions is not considered desirable.

(d) Question does not arise.

Recognition of all India association for SC/ST and physically handicapped people's upliftment

2708. SHRI SHYAM LAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People's Upliftment has approached the Department of Personnel and Training directly and through VIPs for its recognition;